

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, since its origin in 1865 in Galveston, Texas, the observance of June 19 (Juneteenth) as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth reminds us of the horrors of our country's past, commemorates African American freedom, acknowledges the resilience and determination that African Americans have shown, and pays homage to those who have paved the road to freedom in America; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day to recognize the contributions that African Americans have made to our state and country, is a chance to reflect on the progress that must continue to ensure that all have equal access and opportunity to participate fully in our society, is marked with celebrations, picnics, and family gatherings, and is a time for reflection and rejoicing, assessment, self-improvement and planning for the future; and

WHEREAS, in cities across our nation, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2019, as

Juneteenth

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 17th day of June, 2019

Governor Jay Inslee

